

REMARKS

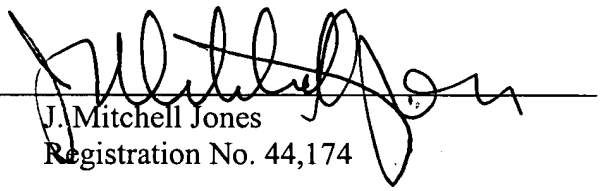
Claims 1-3, 7, and 9 are pending and under examination. The Claim stand rejected as allegedly obvious over Langer in view of Udell. The Examiner states that Applicants can overcome the rejection by providing evidence that CLA reduces hypertension, controlling for weight loss.

Applicants submit herewith a Declaration by Dr. Jean-Michel Gaullier, Head of Clinical Operations, Scandinavian Clinical Research, Norway. This Declaration provides evidence derived from three patients that demonstrate a significant reduction in blood pressure in the absence of significant weight loss. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's position has been rebutted and that the claims should be passed to allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the invention as claimed fully meets all requirements for patentability and that the claims are worthy of allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, Applicant encourages the Examiner to call the undersigned collect at (608) 218-6900.

Dated: February 25, 2004


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